

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00  
SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
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APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN

EA/TIMBS:RFRITTS(DRAFT)

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EB/IFD/ODF:RREIS

EB/ORF:AKOBLER

EB/OT/GCP:MBAAS

TREASURY:RBRAZIL

TREASURY:WMCFADDEN

COMMERCE:MSMITH

EA/EP:WRWARNE

EA:ECOLBERT

EA:EHHEGINBOTHAM (DRAFT)

EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS

-----013948 040313Z /13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113017

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN DIALOGUE

REF: (A) MANILA 6740 (B) BANGKOK 12612  
(C) STATE 111653

1. WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR A MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH BELOW, BUT, AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN THE PAST, IT IS FOR ASEAN TO DECIDE. WE CONSEQUENTLY CONCUR WITH EMBASSY MANILA'S COMMENT IN REFTEL A THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK OUT THE MATTER OF THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AMONG THEMSELVES.

2. THE STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS TEND TO INDICATE THAT MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES MAY BE REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE PRESENCE OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS IS UNCLEAR. THE FORTHCOMING ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING MAY CLARIFY THE MATTER. THE TYPE OF MINISTERS WHO ATTEND WILL, OF COURSE, AFFECT THE SUBSTANCE AND CHARACTER OF, AND PROBABLY THE PARTICIPATION ON THE US SIDE FOR, THE MEETINGS. WE BELIEVE BOTH FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS CAN EACH MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT THE COMPOSITION OVERALL AND FOR EACH COUNTRY IS AGAIN A MATTER FOR ASEAN TO WORK

OUT ITSELF. AS IT STANDS, SECRETARY VANCE AND POSSIBLY TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE. THUS, WE ANTICIPATE BEING EQUALLY PREPARED TO MEET WITH BOTH FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS. TREASURY HAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S PARTICIPATION IS DOUBTFUL IF ASEAN DELEGATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE ECONOMIC MINISTERS.

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3. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT WE NEED TO MAKE AT THIS TIME IS THAT WE NEED A DECISION SOON IF WE ARE TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR AN AUGUST 3-4 MEETING. EMBASSY MANILA CONSEQUENTLY IS REQUESTED TO RESPOND TO THE GOP ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED BELOW. OTHER ADDRESSEES, INCLUDING AMEMBASSY BANGKOK, MAY DRAW ON THESE VIEWS TO INFORMALLY INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE RESPONSE WE ARE MAKING TO ASEAN THROUGH THE GOP.

4. BEGIN US RESPONSE: WE APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME OF THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE DATES AND LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF US-ASEAN TALKS. WE NOTE THAT ASEAN HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION. ASSUMING ASEAN DECIDES TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEGINNING INITIAL PREPARATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

5. A MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING, AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT, WOULD INTENSIFY RECOGNITION BY KEY SEGMENTS OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OF ASEAN'S IMPORTANCE AND CONCERNS. PREPARATIONS FOR SUCH TALKS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS

PROCESS. THE SHORTER THE PREPARATORY PERIOD, THE LESS LIKELY IT IS THAT THIS PROCESS CAN BE USED TO EFFECTIVE ADVANTAGE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN GENERATED BY THE PREPARATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S UPCOMING VISIT TO THREE OF THE FIVE ASEAN CAPITALS.

6. AS WE HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ASEAN BE SEEN AND HEARD MORE PROMINENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES. IN SUGGESTING DATES IN LATE JULY OR AUGUST WE DID SO WITH THE CONSCIOUS INTENT OF SELECTING A PERIOD WHEN COMPETITION FOR THE ATTENTION OF TOP OFFICIALS AND MEDIA COVERAGE IS LIKELY TO BE LESS DEMANDING THAN LATER THIS YEAR. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES, AS WE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEE IT, TO HOLDING MINISTERIAL LEVEL TALKS IN WASHINGTON IS TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR THE MINISTERS TO EXPLAIN ASEAN OPERATIONS AND VIEWS NOT ONLY TO KEY FIGURES IN THE US ADMINISTRATION, BUT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT, TO KEY

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND PUBLIC OPINION LEADERS FROM MEDIA, BUSINESS AND ACADEMIA.

7. IN OUR TENTATIVE PLANNING, WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE AGENDA WOULD ESSENTIALLY REFLECT A CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE WE INITIATED LAST SEPTEMBER IN MANILA. THE INTENT WOULD BE TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES RAISED IN MANILA, IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH MERIT PARTICULAR ATTENTION OVER THE COMING YEAR AND EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN STRENGTHEN INTERIM MECHANISMS TO ALLOW US TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE MOVING FORWARD. SOME OF THE GENERAL AREAS WE MIGHT WISH TO COVER INCLUDE:

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: SINCE WE LAST MET IN MANILA, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS ENTERED A NEW PHASE WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SERVE IN AN OVERVIEW ROLE. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE IN INSURING THAT THIS BODY CAN APPROPRIATELY AND EFFECTIVELY FULFILL ITS FUNCTIONS.

DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND COMMODITIES: THERE IS A BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES RELATING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND COMMODITIES ON WHICH WE COULD MUTUALLY BENEFIT FROM A HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THAT THE MAJOR DECISIONS ON THE MTN WILL HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN REACHED BY THE TIME WE MEET. NEVERTHELESS, THE ANTICIPATION OF HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WITH ASEAN IN AUGUST WOULD HELP FOCUS ATTENTION ON ASEAN'S INTERESTS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, A PERIOD THAT WILL BE CRUCIAL IN SHAPING THE IMPORTANT MTN DECISIONS.

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIPS: AS WE EMPHASIZED IN MANILA, A BROADENING OF PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS AND TIES IS THE SOUNDEST BASIS FOR EXPANDING BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIPS. LAST YEAR'S MEETING IN MANILA AND THE VISITS OF PRIME MINISTERS HUSSEIN AND LEE HAVE CLEARLY STIMULATED INCREASED AWARENESS OF ASEAN IN THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS IN OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE US PRIVATE SECTOR, E.G. THE MEDIA AND ACADEMIA. THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN EXPLORING THE PROSPECTS FOR A US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL IS A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF THE ATTENTION GENERATED

BY THOSE TALKS. TOP LEVEL US BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH ASEAN DURING THEIR VISIT TO WASHINGTON. (AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON REF C TO AMPLIFY THIS POINT.) THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SEMINARS ON ASEAN AND THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF INQUIRIES WE RECEIVE ON ASEAN FROM THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE INDIRECT BENEFITS THAT ACCRUE OVER TIME FROM THE ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: ASSUMING THAT OUR RESPECTIVE AID EXPERTS WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER SHORTLY, WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO POINT TO

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SOME SPECIFIC PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION FOR FY 1979 INCLUDES AN ILLUSTRATIVE REQUEST FOR \$2 MILLION TO INITIATE SUCH A PROGRAM. CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTIVITY WOULD BE ENHANCED BY CONTACTS WITH KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN CONNECTION WITH OUR MEETING.

8. THESE ARE JUST SOME ILLUSTRATIVE IDEAS OF WHAT AN AGENDA MIGHT COMPRISE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT INTENSIFIED INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WOULD IDENTIFY A RANGE OF ISSUES ON WHICH DISCUSSION IS WARRANTED. THIS PROCESS IN ITSELF IS LIKELY TO HELP MOVE MATTERS FORWARD ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

9. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE AGENDA WE HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATING, OUR TENTATIVE PLAN HAS BEEN TO HAVE SECRETARY VANCE PARTICIPATE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING AND TO ASK TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL TO PRESIDE ON THE SECOND DAY. THE PARTICIPATION OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL WOULD BOTH HIGHLIGHT THE ECONOMIC ISSUES AND ENSURE THAT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THESE TALKS IN KEY ECONOMIC DEPARTMENTS OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

10. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUGUST 3-4 WOULD BE THE MOST SUITABLE DATES FOR A MEETING, WE ARE NOW BASING OUR PRELIMINARY SCHEDULING ON THOSE DATES. ASSUMING THAT ASEAN DECIDES TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING A MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING ON THOSE DATES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASEAN'S REACTIONS TO THESE FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT PROCEED. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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